AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The following are amended replacement sections for the specification including markings showing the changes made relative to the immediate prior version.

Replace the section that was previously added to the specification before line 1 of page 2 with the following replacement section:

Cross-Reference to Related Patent Applications

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Serial No. 10/028,776 filed December 28, 2001~~,~~ and now U.S. Patent No. 6,692,455 B2, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Serial No. 08/427,909 filed April 2, 1995 and now U.S. Patent No. 6,406,453 B1, the entire disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 18 and ending at page 9, line 16 with the following replacement paragraph:

In a preferred embodiment, shaft 12 and flanged end portion 14 are formed of a polymeric material known as ~~C-Flex~~ C-Flex™ thermoplastic elastomer. The basic formula of the ~~C-Flex~~ C-Flex™ material is described in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,386,179 and 4,613,640, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference. Briefly, the base component of the ~~C-Flex~~ C-Flex™ material is a Styrene-Ethylene/Butylene-Styrene block copolymer (SEBS). Other components, such as silicone oil, mineral oils, and polypropylene can be added in varying ratios to obtain a desired durometer. "Durometer," as used herein, refers to the hardness of a polymer measured using the Shore A, one second scale for plastics or ASTM Method 2240. From a practical standpoint, the durometer of the shaft and flanged end portion of the ventilation tube can vary within the range of about 20 to about 100, so long as a durometer differential is maintained whereby the shaft material is of higher durometer than the flange material. Shaft 12 is preferably formed of a ~~C-Flex~~ C-Flex™ polymer or similar material having a durometer of about 90 to about 95. End portion 14 is preferably formed of a ~~C-Flex~~ C-Flex™ polymer or similar material having a durometer of about 45 to about 55. Examples of other polymeric materials that can be used include Teflon, Silicone and PTFE. An advantage of forming the shaft and flanged end portion of similar materials, such as the ~~C-Flex~~ C-Flex™ polymers, is that they can be readily fused or bonded together to form a secure attachment that will not separate during normal implantation and removal procedures.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 18 and ending at page 11, line 26 with the following replacement paragraph:

Referring now to Fig. 7, a first polymeric material 67 of relatively high durometer, such as a 90 to 95 durometer ~~C-Flex~~ C-Flex™ material, is injected into the mold and cured in accordance with the material manufacturer's recommendations to produce a molded part of relatively high durometer resembling the medical ~~vent~~ ventilation tube. The material is injected into the mold through opening 66 in mold part 46 and is directed by channels 64a and 64b into the space between projections 52 and recesses 48 to form a flanged end portion and between core pin 58 and hole 50 to form the shaft.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 1 and ending at page 12, line 21 with the following replacement paragraph:

Once the high durometer material has cured, mold parts 44 and 46 are pulled apart and core pins 58 are punched through mold part 44 as shown in Fig. 8 to eject the molded parts. End portion 14′ of each molded part is separated from the shaft, for example by cutting across the broken line shown in Fig. 8, and the separated end portion 14′ is discarded. Shaft 12 of the molded part is retained so that it can be placed over core pin 58 and positioned within the mold as shown in Fig. 9 when flanged end portion 14 of the medical ~~vent tubes~~ ventilation tube is to be formed. Since shaft 12 essentially fills the space between core pin 58 and hole 50, when a second polymeric material 69 of lower durometer than the first, such as a 45 to 55 durometer ~~C-Flex~~ C-Flex™ material, is injected into the mold, only the cavity having the shape of the flanged end portion will be filled with the low durometer material. As a consequence of molding the flanged end portion 14 with the shaft 12 positioned in the mold, the flanged end portion will thermally bond with the shaft to form the medical ventilation tube 10 as shown in Fig. 10. When the low durometer material has cured, mold parts 44 and 46 are pulled apart and core pins 58 are punched through the mold part 44 as described previously to eject the medical ventilation ~~tubes~~ tube 10 from the mold.